from State Governments to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTTA): (a) to (c) At the instance of certain State Governments, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has conducted export potential surveys of 17 States. As a result, steps taken by the State Governments as reported to us are as follows:—

(1) Creation of infrastructure facilities for promoting exports;

(2) setting up of Departments of Export Promotion and Export Corporations to mobilise efforts of small and medium scale enterprises; and

(3) setting up of high-powered State Export Promotion Boards.

The Government have recognised certain State Export Corporations as Export Houses who are eligible for grant-in aid for various export promotion activities.

Trade Development Authority has also started a new activity of preparing action plan for promoting exports from different States. During 1985-86. it had undertaken to studies in respect of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

ILO Suggestion for Constitution of a FUND

1897. SHRI D.B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Labour Organisation has recently suggested to Government of India to constitute a fund to support activities of Government and non-Government agencies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) to what extent the proposals of the ILO are likely to provide protection and to safeguard the health and safety of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The International Labour Organisation has submitted to the Government in July, 1986 a "Report on General and Comprehensive Legislation on Occupational Safety and Health at work Place". This Report, *inter alia*, recommends setting up of a Fund a National Foundation of Industrial Safety and Occupational Health for Coordinating and promoting activites of social security and occupticnal safety and health. As per the said recommendation. the Foundation would assist the activities of existing national or State level agencies in promoting activities of accident prevention and industrial health. Goverment has not yet taken any view on this Report.

Workers in Slate and Pencil Factories in Madhya Pradesh

1898. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the appealing conditions of thousands of men, women and children working in Madhya Pradesh's state and pencil factories and mines under lethal dust pollution thereby reducing their life span; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government to improve the lot of such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.